

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
THE CHANCELLOR

Bonn, September 16, 1961

Dear Mr. President:

I read with great pleasure your letter which Ambassador Dowling handed me over on September 6. It confirmed anew how much we agree in the evaluation of the situation.

I, too, am of the opinion that we must do everything in our power to find for the present crisis a peaceful solution compatible with our vital interests. I also agree with you in that we must at the same time strengthen our military efforts and prepare countermeasures to all Soviet provocations.

As you know on September 7 I had a discussion with General Norstad, mainly about the extension of active service of those German soldiers who would normally be discharged on September 30, 1961. Meanwhile, as you may know, the Federal Government has decided, on the basis of this discussion, and other studies to keep these soldiers under arms until the end of 1961. The Federal Republic will thus be able to meet General Norstad's request for nine German divisions. If my party, as I expect, will be called upon to form the new Federal Government, we shall immediately study the question of extending the term of military service and other military proposals.

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

I hope that the present talks in Washington will take us a good step forward; if we shall stand firmly together and if we do not give Khrushchev any occasion to doubt our unity and determination, we shall master the very difficult months ahead of us.

I should like to thank you again for the statements which Vice President Johnson made in your behalf during his visit to Bonn and Berlin. I shall be pleased to welcome here early next week your special envoy to Berlin, General Lucius Clay.

Sincerely yours,
signed Aienauer